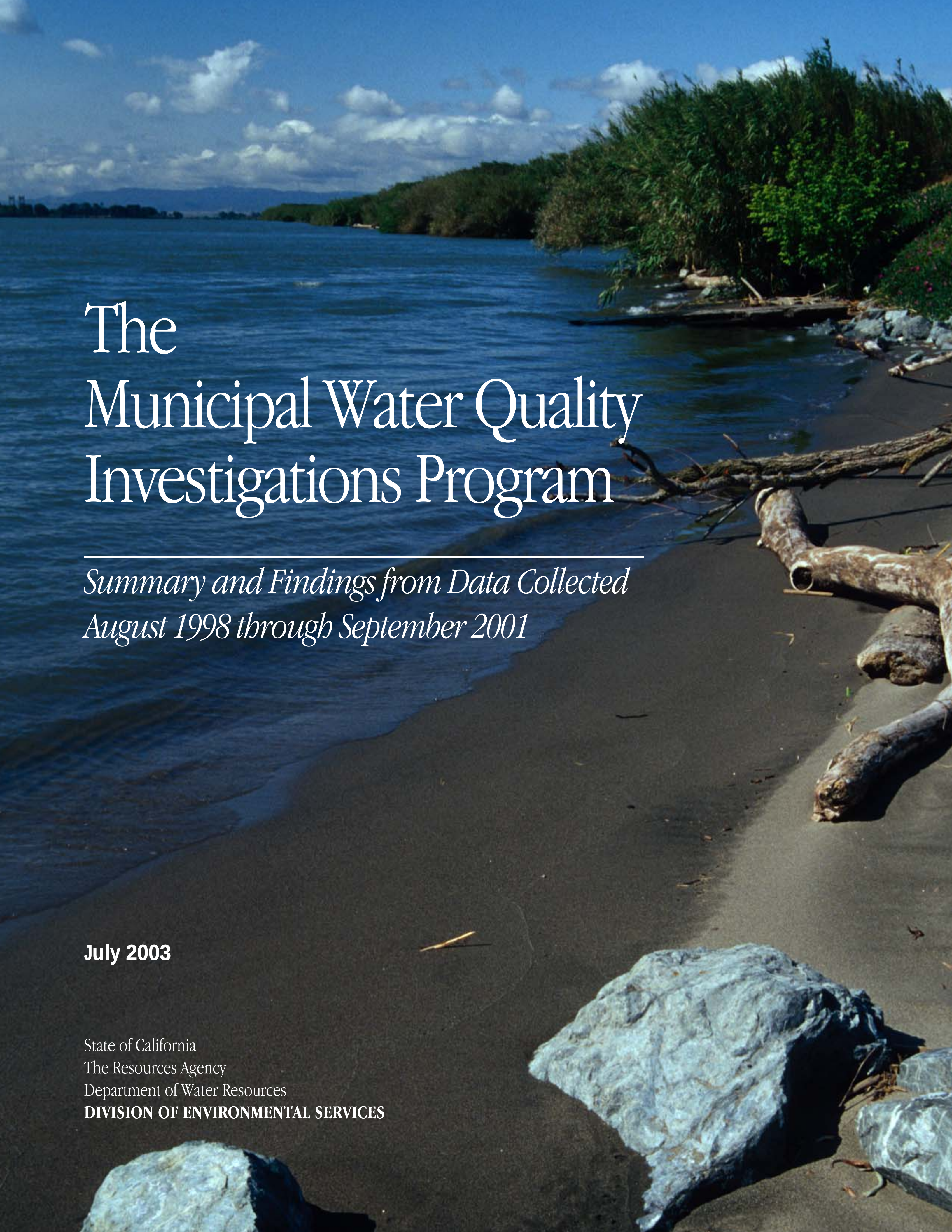

The Municipal Water Quality Investigations Program

Summary and Findings from Data Collected August 1998 through September 2001

July 2003

State of California
The Resources Agency
Department of Water Resources
DIVISION OF ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES

State of California
The Resources Agency
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July 2003

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Governor
State of California

Mary D. Nichols
Secretary of Resources
The Resources Agency

Michael J. Spear
Interim Director
Department of Water Resources

Foreword

Water in the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta (the Delta) is a major source of drinking water for two-thirds of California's population. Delta waters originate mostly from precipitation in the Sierra, the Cascade Range, and the watersheds of the Sacramento and San Joaquin valleys. Water from the Sierra and in the storage facilities outside the Delta are of high quality. When water traverses the complex Delta to diversion points, drinking water quality degrades.

Municipal Water Quality Investigations (MWQI), a program within the Division of Environmental Services of the California Department of Water Resources, is the only state program whose primary mission is to investigate and protect Delta drinking water quality. Since 1983, MWQI has been conducting comprehensive and systematic monitoring at various points near and within the Delta along the water transport path to the diversion locations.

This report summarizes and interprets MWQI monitoring data collected from August 1998 through September 2001 from 14 MWQI sampling stations. Major water quality constituents examined in this report include organic carbon, bromide, salinity, regulated organic and inorganic constituents in drinking water, and a few unregulated constituents of current interest. In addition to presenting the basic summary statistics, this report also discusses seasonal and spatial patterns, differences among stations, and sources of some constituents.

This and other MWQI reports are available online at the MWQI web site: http://www.wq.water.ca.gov/mwq/index.htm. For further information about the MWQI program, please visit its website or contact Richard S. Breuer, Program Manager, (916) 651-9687, or send your request to: P.O. Box 942836, Sacramento, CA 94236-0001.

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